



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/811,535 Confirmation No. 2284
Applicant (s) : Marlin E. Walters, et. al.
Filed : March 29, 2004
TC/A.U. : 1713
Examiner : Bernard Lipman
Title : MOLECULAR MELT AND METHODS FOR MAKING AND
USING THE MOLECULAR MELT
Docket No. : 60365F
Customer No. : 00109

THEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL WITH SUFFICIENT POSTAGE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON: May 19, 2006 DATE OF DEPOSIT Stephanie M. Muma PRINT OR TYPE NAME OF PERSON SIGNING CERTIFICATE <i>Stephanie M. Muma</i> SIGNATURE OF PERSON SIGNING CERTIFICATE <i>May 19, 2006</i> DATE OF SIGNATURE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

This is in response to the Office Action of March 24, 2006. A petition for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Office Action is enclosed herewith.

The Examiner, in his Office Action of March 24, 2006, indicated that:

"This application contains claims directed to the following patently distinct species: the specific combination of antioxidant(s) and "Coupling Agent" along with any other "additives" present. The species are independent or distinct because they represent combinations of totally different chemical entities. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for

prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.”

Applicants assume that the Examiner is requesting Applicants to make a “provisional election of a single species prior to examination on the merits” as set forth in section 803.02, page 800-4 of the Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). If this is the case, then the Applicants understand that the Examiner will Examine Claims 1, 13-18, 21-23, and 29 (together with the other Claims that do not depend from Claims 2, 3, 7, and/or 24) on their merits as set forth in MPEP section 803.02. The Applicants further understand that only upon determining that Claim 1 and the above listed claims are not allowable over the prior art will the Examiner further limit the examination of the Claims to the applicable provisional species (for Claims 2, 3, 7 and 24) elected by the Applicants in this response. If this understanding is correct, the Applicants respectfully make the following provisional election of species:

For Claim 2, the Applicants elect the “groups capable of forming a nitrene” for the provisional elected species of a Coupling Agent.

For Claim 3, the Applicants elect the “poly(sulfonyl azides)” for the provisional elected species of a Coupling Agent.

For Claim 7, the Applicants elect the “hindered phenolic compounds and derivatives thereof” for the provisional elected species of antioxidant.

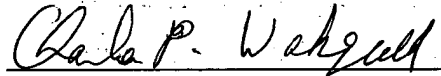
For Claim 24, the Applicants elect the “internal lubricants” for the provisional elected species of additional polymer additives.

However, if the Applicants’ above set forth understanding is incorrect and the Examiner will not independently examine Claims 1, 4-6, 8-23 and 25-29, then Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species requirement and direct the Examiner to the fact that: (1) Claims 1, 13-18, and 29 are generic to a molecular melt composition comprising an antioxidant and a Coupling Agent and do not further delineate any particular chemical species; and (2) Claims 4-6, 8-12, 19-23 and 25-28 are not Markush claims and do not depend from Markush claims (i.e. Claims 2, 3, 7,

and 24) and therefore can be examined independently without any need for an election of Species.

Applicants respectfully request that all the Claims be fully examined and that the case be allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles P. Wakefield", written in dark ink.

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Enclosures

CPW/smm